



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I greatly regret to inform you of the massacre, by troops of the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition, of some 500 civilians, including many women, children and elderly people, in the south-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These massacres were perpetrated in the Bangwe, Katuta and Kashekesi neighbourhoods of the village of Makobola, located some 20 kilometres south of the town of Uvira in South Kivu province. They are a sequel to a vast operation of reprisals against the Mai-Mai warriors who are said to have attacked enemy positions in this sector the day before.

According to the testimony that has reached the Government, these massacres lasted from 30 December 1998 to 1 January 1999, and during them innocent civilian victims were killed, most of them by machetes and in other cases by bullets.

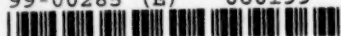
The perpetrators of this dastardly killing have been identified as soldiers of the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition, and more specifically as soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army.

The victims were Christian members of the indigenous population, both Catholic and Protestant.

These new massacres are reminiscent of those committed at Kasika in August 1998, when more than a thousand Congolese were also massacred using edged weapons within the compound of a Catholic mission, in response to which the Security Council has still taken no specific action to condemn and halt once and for all this kind of flagrant violation of human rights.

My Government once again invites the Security Council to endorse the concerns of the Organization of African Unity, and urges it to:

(a) Strongly condemn the invasion of Congolese territory by Rwandan and Ugandan troops;



(b) Call on Rwanda and Uganda to withdraw their troops forthwith from Congolese territory;

(c) Call on Rwanda and Uganda to halt forthwith all atrocities against the Congolese population;

(d) To initiate, as a matter of urgency, an inquiry into the Kasika massacres, as well as those just perpetrated at Makobola.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André Mwanga KAPANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
